

WINNEBAGO COUNTY
ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission
Minutes

DATE: Friday, April 14, 2023

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Winnebago County Administrative Building
112 Otter Ave, Oshkosh WI 54901
Conference Room 120

PRESENT: Co-Chair Tom Egan, County Board Chairman
Co-Chair Jon Doemel, County Executive
Morris Cox, Personnel and Finance Chair
Chuck Farrey, County Board Vice-chair
Tom Borchart, County Board Member
Tom Belter, Public Member
Beth Oswald, Public Member
Tim Galloway, Public Member (arrived at 2:19 p.m.)
Paul Kaiser, Director of Finance (non-voting member)

EXCUSED: Andy Buck, County Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:	Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant	D Rice (via Zoom)
	Cassie Smith-Gregor, Deputy County Clerk	Doug Gieryn (via Zoom)
	Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel	Alana Erickson (via Zoom)
	Andrew Kaspar, Corporation Counsel	Sarah Freiberg (via Zoom)
	Brian Harbison, President, Winnebago County Fire Chiefs Association	Michael Heider (via Zoom)
	Frank Frassetto, Town of Black Wolf Chairman	Sadie Olson (via Zoom)
	Alicia Gehrig – Christine Ann Center	
	Emily James – Christine Ann Center	
	Anthony Mach – Neenah Water Utility	
	Kyle – Solutions Recovery – T/Winchester	
	Tony Daley – Journalist	

Co-Chair Jon Doemel called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

1. Public Comments

Frank Frassetto, Town of Blackwolf Chairman, thanked the commission for their efforts to provide the additional \$145,000 to the municipalities and towns within Winnebago County and the support of the resolution at the County Board level.

Chief Brian Harbison, President of the Winnebago County Fire Chiefs Association, thanked the commission for all their hard work. The Fire Department had previously submitted a proposal and provided members with another copy of that proposal. He reiterated the importance of Public Safety and what it takes for them to do this. Funding is the biggest hurdle. This is a request for the future needs of radio placement as well as a computer software upgrade to the dispatch centers fire dispatch systems. This helps the fire department in every community to lower Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating by having this computer software. Reducing the ISO ratings reduces the cost to the community. The request does include radios for all the fire departments in the county with the exception of Oshkosh only because they have already replaced their radios.

Alicia Gehrig, the Executive Director at Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services voiced her concerns at the decision by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors on March 21, 2023 to not allocate any county ARPA funds specifically to non-profits. She asked the ARPA Commission to consider supporting Christine Ann's capital campaign under Government Identified Projects by funding a portion of their purchase of the Beach Building at 240 Algoma Boulevard to expand their services for survivors of domestic abuse that includes transitional housing. In providing essential services, their agency works closely with and takes some of the burden off of government entities. There is a great need for transitional housing programs and affordable housing in our community. Many other organizations are working hard to address this need yet there are still limitations that leave survivors of domestic abuse underserved. For example, some facilities only accept certain clientele

which cannot meet the need for everyone. Christine Ann Center is the missing puzzle piece when it comes to the transitional housing. Our transitional housing program for survivors is only possible in the Beach Building. They will fill the remaining gaps in the community.

Emily James, Grant and Stewardship Specialist at the Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services voiced her support of ARPA funds for Christine Ann Center. Christine Ann is currently in the capital campaign to purchase, renovate and move into the Beach Building in Oshkosh. Board members, staff and volunteers have been working towards this goal for well over a year. This move will increase the capacity at their emergency shelter from 37 to 60 beds and allow them to offer a new transitional housing program with 11 apartments. The commission's choice to fund Christine Ann has the power to make their vision in the new building a reality and help us serve thousands more survivors there for decades to come. Based on the results of the feasibility study and limitations of the other funding sources, it is unlikely that they will be able to move forward without County ARPA funding. Christine Ann is not the only non-profit negatively impacted by this decision. Without ARPA funds to make these necessary projects possible, multiple organizations in our community will be unable to grow resulting in a continued lack of affordable housing and the inability to expand services to the even more vulnerable people in our community.

Sarah Freiberg, Board President at the Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services voiced her support and thoughts regarding their center. As both Alicia and Emily stated earlier, this is a huge step forward for the organization. Significantly more beds, transitional housing which is a big need in the whole area, helps us better meet the needs of our consumers and clients. Please reconsider. We are really counting on the ARPA funds to bring this to life for us.

Anthony Mach from the Neenah Water Utility company addressed the commission with his thoughts regarding ARPA funds. He realizes the ARPA funds are making their way to the cities. He also wanted to address the commission to consider other municipal entities that do not receive ARPA funds like the Neenah Water Utility. They are looking at a project to provide better water service to Doty Island, more specifically to the hospital, Theda Clark. One thing they would like to do is replace the existing water mains and run a new water main along oak street bridge. The total cost of that project right now is \$500,000. He was not sure if there is any type of consideration for those types of projects but just wanted to make himself heard.

Beth Oswald spoke in support of Christine Ann services. She stated that costs to do the upgrade in their current building almost mirror the cost of purchasing a finished newly updated Beach Building. At the time she worked in the current building, they wouldn't have been able to add on transitional housing. That was the decision and unfortunately due to all the expenses, the cost of some of the renovation and the purchasing of all the other items went up significantly. It almost increased a million from when they did the feasibility study and the decision.

Kyle from Solutions Recovery, Town of Winchester addressed his concerns regarding the expansion project for Christine Ann. He is looking forward to what these ARPA funds can do for our communities. Their company is the partner working with Christine Ann. Christine Ann is looking to expand Solutions Recovery services. The current facility is simply out of space. They have been the recipients of the Neighborhood Investment Grant and are expanding the facility what they can. They already know funds will be insufficient, with the growing demand they are already seeing. They serve the alcohol and addiction society in our area. Services are in high demand and impact their ability to grow. They will have to change their strategic direction very drastically.

2. Approval of 3/09/2023 meeting minutes.

Motion by Farrey, seconded by Belter to approve the 03/09/2023 meeting minutes. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

3. Updates on next steps for approved Spirit Fund Projects:

- **Facilities Condition Assessment**

- Underway. McKinstry was awarded the bid. It is possible that they have been on site already. They will be through all of the buildings. A report will hopefully be available by the end of summer or early fall. The report will not say if the buildings are functioning optimally or not. They will only consist of the condition of the building, not space or master planning, just the deferred maintenance of the buildings. The Facilities Condition Assessment will use the Industry Standard for rating the buildings.

- **Priority Based Budgeting**

- Underway. We have had a couple of launch meetings. We are getting ready to start filling the data into the tool. We had the opportunity for Andrew Kline, the author from "City on the Line", join us via zoom and had a great a discussion with department heads on how he implemented this both in the City of Baltimore and in Montgomery County, Maryland. Hollenberger stated we are in the process of doing the charting of the project plan and merging it with all the other projects. Mainly the budget and how it will affect the budget process from a board member or committee perspective.

- **Subscriber Radios**

- Doemel took some responsibility on this. The intention was to open up a bid to see what

those cost savings would be but the order went out to purchase radios after the County Board approved the project. Doemel would still like to get a quote to see what the cost savings would have been if a different vendor and radio would have been used. The commission would still like a quote from Nielsen Communications for radios for entities that are not county owned.

- **Funding for municipalities and towns**

- The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 203-032023; Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$145,000 for each Municipality or Town Primarily Located within Winnebago County. Doemel stated they are receiving a lot of questions now from the towns, how do they get the funds and when? Administration is working on that. Hollenberger provided some additional information. An agreement needs to be created. We need the framework document because the municipalities have to provide a narrative to say they've complied with the framework the commission has set in place. We will have something in place and ready in about 4-5 weeks for the city and town boards to do their resolutions and check lists to get back to the commission. We are working through this and want to be sure it is organized. Once a decision is made on the framework document, that will give us more direction and to move things forward.

- **Land and Water Conservation Projects**

- Doemel had spoken with the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR Director stated we are the only county he knew of that is using these funds towards a Land and Water Conservation Project. Doemel believes this will have a long-term impact even though it is a 10-15 year program and will see results for decades to come.

Farrey thanked the Commission and the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for their support and approval in this project. The next step now under Chapter 92 will fall to the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) to establish a policy. It will be a written document and then come to the County Board for approval. We will address each project separately. Currently, most of them are funded at 70%. The Committee will determine whether that should go to 90%. When that policy is put together, it will be brought forward to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for final approval. We expect that to be hopefully in September 2023 or early October 2023. Once the policy is approved, it is open for land owners to request projects.

- **Sunnyview Expo Center Resiliency Project**

- Out for bid; they are moving forward with this project. Funds will reimburse general fund for work that has already been done. They should have some work starting this year.

The dashboard is still being worked on. This is not ready yet. Once funds begin to go out, the dashboard will be fully activated.

4. Discuss categories approved by the County Board for Spirit Fund Spending

Ethan Hollenberger discussed the Winnebago County Spirit Fund Allocation Planning Document. The County Board passed Resolution 167-022823 that was amended. The amendment removed the third category, 25% of funds for non-governmental community projects, which eliminated funds for broadband, economic development, small businesses, and non-profit support. That percentage of funds have now been added to the category, County Government Projects. Hollenberger drafted and shared an updated Planning Document spreadsheet showing the approved amount and what has been allocated or spent for each category. It also includes the project names, description, planned allocation, board approved allocation and what percentage has been used for the specific projects. The spreadsheet also shows what is unallocated since the third category was removed and those funds were added into the County Government Projects category. This planning document spreadsheet provides a more up-to-date status of where the funds and projects are currently at.

Members discussed alternative ideas on how the commission could still incorporate Spirit funding for non-profit entities.

5. Discuss/Action on framework of outcomes to guide the spending of the county's ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds grant.

This Framework document is a guided document. If it is approved we would give this to towns and other entities to apply for any ARPA funds if they meet the requirements of the category.

Motion made by Oswald, seconded by Belter to bring the Framework document to floor.

Motion made by Belter, seconded by Cox to amend Framework document; remove and replace verbiage under Government Identified Community Projects (50% of funds). Remove "government" and replace with "the commission" in first line under the title of category. Should state, "These are projects which are identified by ~~government~~ **the commission** and are intended to be a partnership between county departments and community. Projects are administered by county departments and could be granted to sub-recipients or county projects. This was pulled so a new amendment could be made.

Motion made by Oswald, seconded by Egan to amend Framework document; remove and replace verbiage under Government Identified Community Projects (50% of funds). Remove "government" and replace with "the commission" and remove "partnership" and replace with "collaboration" in first line under the title of category. Should state, "These are projects which are identified by ~~government~~ **the commission** and are intended to be a ~~partnership~~ **collaboration** between county departments and community. Projects are administered by county departments and could be granted to sub-recipients or county projects. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Motion made by Egan, seconded by Belter to amend Framework document; remove the entire "ARPA Final Rule", the first paragraph of the document. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (Nay: Cox)

Motion made by Oswald, seconded by Belter to vote on Framework document as amended. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

6. Set next meeting date and time.

The next meeting date will be Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Richard Meyer Community Resource Room.

7. Adjournment.

Motion made by Egan, seconded by Cox to adjourn at 2:56 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:
Cassie Smith-Gregor
Winnebago County Deputy Clerk